

spreading to our important trading partner, Brazil—and Brazil, I might add, has also begun to take strong economic measures of its own—and we've established a program to keep the crisis from spreading to other countries which are vulnerable in spite of their own good economic policies. Now we're taking our efforts directly to Asia where the crisis began and where we must work to bring it to an end. I have spoken with Vice President Gore, who represented the United States so ably at the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference.

The situation in Iraq, as you know, prevented me from attending, but I followed the proceedings very closely, and I got a good report from the Vice President. The summit has just concluded, and I'm very pleased that the leaders there made progress on our efforts to make trade more free and more fair so that we can increase prosperity for the new century.

Prime Minister Obuchi and I also announced a new U.S.-Japan initiative to help Asian banks and businesses emerge from the crushing debt burdens they have and restore growth. This was another important objective in the program I announced at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York a few weeks ago.

Now, in Japan and Korea, I will work for further progress. Nothing is more important to restoring stability and growth in Asia than efforts to restart Japan's economy. It has long been Asia's engine of growth. It is, as all of us know, the second-largest economy in the world, but it has been stalled for 5 years.

In meetings with Prime Minister Obuchi, a townhall with Japanese citizens, and other settings, I look forward to discussing how Japan can promptly and effectively implement its commitment to banking reform, stimulate consumer demand and growth, deregulate key economic sectors, and open its markets to fair trade. Just as the world looked to us in America 6 years ago to put our economic house in order, today nations look to Japan to take decisive steps to help the Japanese people to restore growth in Asia and around the world.

Now, in South Korea I will meet with President Kim Dae-jung. We all know he's a courageous leader who has devoted his life

to strengthening Korean democracy. Now he and his fellow citizens face a difficult but necessary task of reforming their financial institutions, their corporate sector, and getting growth back on track there. It will be essential, in this regard, not only for the Government to act but for Korea's big business conglomerates to do their share for economic reform.

On this trip, we will also work to strengthen the security for our people. If Iraq's weapons of mass destruction have dominated recent headlines, we must be no less concerned by North Korea's weapons activities, including its provocative missile program and developments that could call into question its commitment to freeze and dismantle its nuclear weapons effort. This trip will give us an opportunity to address this critical issue where China has also played a very constructive role.

We also want to support President Kim's strategy of engagement on the Korean Peninsula and to ensure that our forces are strong and vigilant in Korea until there is a just and lasting peace there. And finally, on the way home, I'm looking very much forward to stopping in Guam and spending some time with our fellow citizens there.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:52 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Progress Toward a Negotiated Settlement on Cyprus

November 18, 1998

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with Public Law 95-384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question covering the period August 1 to September 30, 1998. The previous submission covered events during June and July 1998.

United States efforts to bring about a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus issue based on a bizonal, bicomunal federation remained steadfast. United States officials encouraged the Greek Cypriot and Turkish

Cypriot leadership to focus on the core issues of the Cyprus dispute and encouraged all parties to prepare for eventual comprehensive negotiations. My Special Presidential Emissary for Cyprus, Richard C. Holbrooke, and the Special Cyprus Coordinator, Thomas J. Miller, underscored this message in a series of important meetings in September with Cypriot, Greek, and Turkish representatives attending the United Nations General Assembly.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Remarks in "A Conversation With President Clinton" With Tetsuya Chikushi in Tokyo

November 19, 1998

Opening Remarks

Tetsuya Chikushi. We have our special guest today who has the biggest influence and responsibility to the future of humankind. We have this most important bilateral relations, and he's the most responsible person in all of the United States. We are very happy to have him, to greet him with a large number of audience. Mr. Bill Clinton, the President of the United States.

Mr. President, welcome to our program, and I appreciate your choice to join us. It's really an honor. I will skip any more ceremonial remarks—[inaudible]. To begin with, you have something to say to the people.

The President. Yes. I will be very brief so that we can leave the most time possible for questions. But I would like to begin by thanking you and this station for making this program possible. I thank all of you for participating and also those in Osaka who are joining us.

I would like to open by just emphasizing some things I think we all know. First, the relationship between the United States and Japan is very, very important to both countries and to the world. We have a very broad

partnership in the security area, in the political area, in the economic area.

Over the years, there is sometimes greater emphasis on one issue than another. Over the years, sometimes America is having particular problems; sometimes Japan is. But the enduring nature of our democratic partnership across all the differences between our peoples is profoundly important. And on the edge of this new century and a new millennium, when there is so much change in the way people work and live and relate to each other, it will become more important.

That's why I'm here and why I wanted to be a part of this townhall meeting. And I thank you very much.

Mr. Chikushi. Thank you very much. There are about 100 people here and 30 people in Osaka, the second largest city, and everybody wants to discuss with you, to make some questions. And also, we gathered questions nationwide through Internet and facsimile. To start with, I would like to ask some casual questions, and I would like to expect a brief answer. From now on, I'd like to speak in Japanese.

We have many questions from children, many of them with—[inaudible]. I will pick one from the fifth grader of the primary school. "Did you have good grades at school when you were a kid?" [Laughter]

The President. Mostly. [Laughter]

Mr. Chikushi. Next question.

Chelsea Clinton

Q. [Inaudible]—when Chelsea, your daughter, was born, how much were you involved in baby raising, child raising?

The President. I'm sorry, would you read—

Q. How much were you involved in raising her?

The President. When my daughter was born, how involved was I with her? I was very involved with her from the time she was a very small baby, and always going to her events, working with her on her homework until it became too difficult for me—[laughter]—and trying to be a big part of her life. So, my wife and I both tried to be very involved in her life, and we still try to be, although she has reached an age where I don't